

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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Department of International Affairs
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
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ASIAN CRISIS POLICIES OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER COMMENDED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

Unanimously, the National Council of Churches, through its General Board, in Chicago, March 3, assured President Eisenhower and his advisors of prayers in their behalf and commended his policies of courageous patience, moderation and support of the United Nations in face of the present crisis in Asia. This action was telegraphed to him. Copies were sent to leaders in government and released to the press. Religious publications are being encouraged to use it widely. The text:

"To the President of the United States: The General Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., in session in Chicago, March 3, 1955, holds you in its prayers, and petitions Almighty God that Divine wisdom and understanding may be given you and your advisors, to the end that the crisis in the Far East may be peaceably resolved.

"Your appeal to our people in this period of international unrest that they have 'the courage to be patient' reflects a mood of moderation which does credit to your high office. This appeal suggests the course our nation should follow in its search for peace in Asia and throughout the world.

"We commend you for your steadfast support of the United Nations and for your efforts to achieve through this organization a cease-fire in the Formosa Strait. We earnestly hope such action as will be taken by our government respecting this issue will be of a kind calculated to insure the continuing good-will and cooperation of our friends and allies."

It is hoped that denominations, councils of churches, local churches and other church groups will publicize and use this positive, constructive statement for their work in international affairs in developing public opinion and in apprising the Administration and the Congress of their commendation and convictions.

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UMT OPPOSED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL IN REAFFIRMATION

In a strongly supported action (vote for, 72; against, 3; abstentions, 2), the National Council of Churches, through its General Board, March 3, restated its official opposition to permanent universal military training. The text follows:

"The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., on January 30, 1952, after recording its concern for national security, and acknowledging the need for adequate defense measures in the light of circumstances then existing, affirmed its opposition to permanent universal military training. That action was in line with the views of many of its constituent communions, recorded over a period of years.

"We are now in a situation in which it is most important that the churches uphold the hands of leaders who are seeking to reduce tensions among the nations.

"In this situation legislation is being proposed the probable effect of which, within the nation, is a matter of widespread uncertainty.

"We therefore urge our constituent churches to study current legislative proposals having to do with military training, with consideration both of their international and domestic significance.

"The National Council of Churches reserving judgment as to specific measures currently under consideration, reaffirms its opposition to permanent universal military training."

Following this action, representation was made before the House Committee on Armed Services on behalf of the NCC by Dr. Earl F. Adams, of the Washington Office, March 4. Detailed analysis of the "National Reserve Plan" as embodied in H.R. 2967 is being made by the Department of International Affairs. Hearings before the House Committee on Armed Services are concluded, so individuals and organizations concerned in this issue, wishing to make their views known to Congress, must do so without delay if they would influence the crucial action to be taken by the House of Representatives soon.

A first survey of the specifics of the "National Reserve Plan" as portrayed in H.R. 2967, in the President's message to Congress on this issue, and in the materials presented by the Defense Department to support it, indicates that these would seem to suggest that, while the particular words are not used, a system of Universal Military Training is in the making. The plan as set forth in detail has the specific elements of a "universal," "compulsory;" and "permanent" system of military training. It is hoped that a full report may be made by the Department of International Affairs as study proceeds on this matter.

BEHIND THE HEADLINE: PRESIDENT BLAKE'S CALL TO PRAYER FOR PEACE

Back of the headline in this issue of Newsletter on the message to the President are these prior developments: A call to prayer was issued by the National Council through its President, Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, Feb. 4, on his departure for the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, at Geneva, Switzerland. Church people were urged to pray: "that the present crisis may be resolved without war;" for the United Nations; for continuing negotiation among governments; and "that God's will for justice and concord among the nations will prevail." The initiative for a further timely message came through the Policy Committee of the Department of International Affairs with Dean John Bennett and others indicating the need for dealing constructively with the most significant concerns at this particular time.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF UN TO BE HIGHLIGHTED

From many quarters plans are reported under way for celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Some focus on the time of the signing of the Charter, being observed by special session of members of the UN Assembly in San Francisco, June 20-26. Others focus on UN Day, October 24. Others are emphasizing the period June through October.

The NCC through its Department of International Affairs is cooperating with various organizations in their planning and will itself emphasize particularly the observance of World Order Sunday, October 23, by the churches. Plans being made with and for the churches will be announced shortly.

Various organizations are combining efforts in this special year of celebration as seen in N.Y. Times item datelined: United Nations, N.Y., Feb. 20: Four major groups have announced their cooperation at the national level and in encouraging the establishment of a single representative committee of organizations and citizens in every community for UN programs. "They are the American Association for the United Nations, the Foreign Policy Association, the United States Committee for the United Nations and Women United for the United Nations." They proposed pooling their resources and efforts to help communities across the nation develop "the most effective and appropriate activities in recognition of the United Nations."

The Department of International Affairs was represented in the annual advance planning session of the United States Committee for the United Nations at the State Department, Washington, February 15, by Dr. Maxwell. The Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, at this meeting stressed the importance of the UN. This followed within hours a statement of Senator Knowland highly critical of the UN. The remarks of Secretary Dulles in this context received front-page coverage in Washington, New York and elsewhere. He declared that the achievements of UN are not dramatic, but in total are tremendous. He related that members of the U.S. Delegation to the UN through the years have been even stronger in support of the UN after their term of service than before. His conclusion: Those who know the UN best support it most. Therefore, there is urgent necessity for people to have knowledge of the UN. One of the important values of the UN, he declared, is that among nations it affords a buffer with great potentialities for dealing with international tension; it furnishes a moderator so nations are not dealing directly on raw edges which might more likely develop warlike relations. He reaffirmed the fact that he is "a believer in the UN."

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Beginning in Chicago, February 23, 1905 with four men, Rotary has grown in 50 years to a world-wide organization of 8,450 clubs with nearly 400,000 members in 89 countries. A feature column, NYT, 2/23/55, compares Rotary with the UN as an expression of "what men might do under the impact of a civilized wish to live together peaceably," and as examples that "various organizations have been able to demonstrate effectively that men and women of widely divergent geographical and political backgrounds can work toward common goals and achieve useful objectives." To Rotary, with its motto of "Service above self" and its work of goodwill among men, professions and nations, "Many happy returns of the day!"

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE: Bricker Amendment? Washington talk indicates, as did a New York ad, that some groups are pushing for a resurgence of support for the proposed Bricker Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or some such limitation of the executive branch of government in international affairs which would place stringent restrictions on U.S. co-operation in the UN and other international enterprises.

DO CHURCH PEOPLE SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

On invitation from the Sub-committee on Technical Assistance Programs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk testified before it in Washington, Feb. 21, representing the National Council of Churches. He set forth some achievements of Christian programs related to technical assistance, citing specifically Christian Missions and Church World Service. The question was raised by Senator Fulbright as to how much real support there is among the people for government programs of technical assistance, saying he and other Senators had been receiving only a small volume of mail expressing concern for it. Dr. Van Kirk replied that, if he had anything to say about it, the Senators would be hearing from people in support of technical assistance.

EXCERPTS OF TESTIMONY AT SENATE HEARING: "The National Council of Churches is strongly of the opinion that the United States should continue its program of technical co-operation, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

"For more than a century Christian Missions have pioneered in developing programs of technical assistance. The Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches is made up of 97 member boards and related agencies. These boards and agencies maintain a missionary force of 9,500 men and women in more than 50 countries. They contribute annually for overseas expenditures, approximately \$40,000,000. They maintain schools, colleges, universities, training centers, farms, shops, hospitals. Tens of thousands of trained nationals are associated in these Christian endeavors.

"Also, through the Central Department of Church World Service of the National Council of Churches, the various denominations have carried forward a Point Four program of their own. In 1954 these denominations expended for this purpose \$8,000,000 and the anticipated expenditures for 1955 will be in excess of \$9,000,000. In 1954 they shipped 30,000,000 pounds of materials to areas of need and during the current year this figure will rise to between 50 and 60 million pounds. . . The churches have helped distribute surplus foods, and . . . pioneered in various . . . village and community projects. . . They have worked in close cooperation with indigenous agencies and always with the view of helping people help themselves. Through this ministry of good works the churches have built up a vast reservoir of goodwill toward the U.S.

"It is out of this long and fruitful experience that the churches have reached the conclusion that a U.S. program of technical cooperation, properly motivated and administered, can be a factor of immense importance in the search for world justice and peace. We believe our nation, under God, has inherited a great responsibility and opportunity. The numerous resources which have made possible our unrivaled prosperity are a trust we hold from God. We cannot violate that trust and escape judgment.

"The churches, accordingly, support government programs of technical cooperation in so far as these programs are essentially humanitarian in character. . . (The recipients) don't want to be thought of as expendable in wars, hot or cold. They don't want to be bought, or bribed. If among them the impression should prevail that fertilizers, seed grain, improved methods of agriculture, and irrigation and power projects are primarily designed to enlist them as participants in a possible world war, they are likely to refuse our hand of friendship.

"It is important, therefore, that programs of technical cooperation be kept wholly independent of considerations of military or defense strategy. . . .

- "The churches believe, and the General Board of the National Council of Churches has so declared, that government programs of technical cooperation should be projected upon a

long-term basis. The conditions of social and economic maladjustment which these programs are designed to improve, have been centuries in the making. They cannot be dealt with on a year-by-year basis, nor in the atmosphere of an emergency operation. . . We suggest, therefore, that programs of technical cooperation be conceived as an endeavor of long duration, and that personnel for the administration and operation of these programs be enlisted and trained in the expectation that we will be working at this task for a long time.

"As for the relation of church agencies to the program of technical cooperation. . . in so far as this program is essentially humanitarian in character, Christian missionaries and the personnel of church-related institutions are prepared and eager to cooperate . . . , on a consultative and voluntary basis. . .

"The National Council of Churches believes that whenever and wherever possible, technical assistance to the people of the under-developed areas should be made available through the UN. . . The Christian community around the world sees great promise in the UN endeavors in this respect. The Assembly of the World Council of Churches, in session at Evanston, in August 1954, received a report on 'International Affairs' which claimed that 'The response of more developed countries through expanded international programs of technical assistance is one of the brightest pages of recent history; but the effort thus far has been small in comparison with the needs of the less developed countries and the resources of those more developed. A progressively sustained effort will for a long time be required and involves mutual responsibilities and benefits which challenge all who cooperate in such endeavors.'

"The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council has urged 'The better integration of programs conducted by the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, and closer cooperation between this UN Expanded Program and regional and bilateral schemes, for the sake of rendering the maximum of efficient service to peoples of less developed regions.'

". . . There is ample evidence that when administered by the UN, technical assistance can reinforce the efforts of the free world to establish the conditions of peace. We sincerely hope the U.S. will continue its cooperation in the UN Expanded Program of technical assistance, and on a scale commensurate with our resources."

WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW? This testimony was given before the committee which has responsibilities for policy and long range planning. There are now, also immediate critical problems of appropriations. The U.S. has not yet fulfilled its pledge to UN technical assistance this year; \$8,000,000 is still unpaid. Appropriation for the next fiscal year has not yet been authorized. Also the U.S. was hindered by present fiscal arrangements from pledging to UN technical assistance when other nations pledged; some church people suggest: Congress should budget ahead for U.S. to share in the next pledging session, thus giving more stability and confidence to the UN technical assistance program and its workers.

How many Christians have convictions on these matters? Many denominations have voted to support programs of technical assistance. The question: How many church people will write now to their own Senators and Representatives and to those having special responsibilities for these programs to let them know their convictions so these men will feel there is real support for such programs?

WHERE TO WRITE: Re. policy and long-term planning - 1) Senator Mike Mansfield, Chairman, Sub-committee on Technical Assistance Programs, Senate Office Bldg., Wash. 2) Senator J. William Fulbright, Senate Office Bldg., Wash., D.C. Re. Appropriations - Hon. Clarence Cannon, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations, House Office Bldg. Wash. D.C.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? News from Denominations, Councils, and Local Churches:

THE METHODIST CRUSADE FOR WORLD ORDER, is now in high gear, featuring: Materials such as Plowshares and Pruning Hooks, a study and general use booklet with sections by Oxnam, Sockman, Nolde, Van Kirk; a program of "Prayers for Peace," a vigil through every minute of every day of the whole year from Dec. 31, 1954 to January 1, 1956; active testimony before congressional committees, opposing UMT, urging support of UN; a new 15-minute filmstrip with recording, on The Meaning of Peace, the UN, and Universal Disarmament (The Board of World Peace, Rev. Charles F. Boss, Jr., Executive Secretary, 740 Rush St., Chicago, Ill.; rental, \$2.50, purchase \$6.00); and, with special help in Bishop F. Gerald Ensley's pamphlet, "The Vision of Peace, The Preaching of Peace," Methodist ministers across the land are sounding out from their pulpits and in their church programs an emphasis on world order and peace.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, through its Executive of the General Council, Feb. 1-2, as reported by Dr. Ernest E. Long, Secretary, adopted a resolution proposed by its Committee on the Church and International Affairs. After some "whereases" of background, it resolved to take "the following action in the Name of the Prince of Peace,"

"FIRST, call upon the ministers and members of The United Church of Canada to continue most earnestly to pray and work for peace;

"SECOND, assure our missionaries in the Far East that our Church's support of World Relief programmes will be continued;

"THIRD, urge our Canadian diplomatic representatives at home and abroad to continue to do all within their power to create, maintain and extend the spirit of understanding and tolerance among national governments, particularly to bring into being constructive negotiations designed to alleviate the tension centering in the Far East over Formosa and hence strengthen the hope and promise of maintaining World Peace;

"FOURTH, call upon the United Nations through the Canadian representatives to assure that the Security Council now in session do all in its power to maintain peace in the Far East."

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA, Dr. Grover L. Hartman, Executive Secretary, reports that its Board of Directors, on initiative of its World Friendship Department, Mrs. P.D. Pointer, Chmn., after an hour's discussion by representative laymen, women and ministers voted unanimously to inform all their members of the Congress as follows:

- 1) "That the Council of Churches record its opposition to the proposed National Reserve Plan or any other program which has the effect of establishing universal military training in the United States.
- 2) That the Council favor the extension of the Reciprocal Trade program along lines laid down in the President's proposal now before the Senate.
- 3) That the Council support the technical assistance program of the United Nations and urge the Congress to appropriate at once a minimum of \$8,000,000 for the balance of the succeeding fiscal year. It was the feeling of the Board that the failure of the United States to make these appropriations immediately would be most regrettable and that it would seriously hamper a program which is considered vitally significant to the development of a peaceful world."

Their communication also included copies of a comprehensive afternoon and evening "Peace Conference", sponsored by their Council under leadership of their World Friendship Department, Dec. 4, and an afternoon Conference on World Peace, led by Dr. Harold Neel,

Council President, at First Methodist Church, Mishawaka; these conferences dealt with such issues as: The UN; Charter Revision; Refugees-Relief-Rehabilitation; Relations of U.S. and U.S.S.R.; Technical Assistance.

"A LOCAL CHURCH IN A RURAL VILLAGE," as Rev. Alan B. Peabody, Minister, characterizes The De Ruyter Federated Church, hit the main headline of The De Ruyter Gleaner, Feb. 10, on their series of Foreign Policy Discussions. Held on four Saturday (!) evenings, these meetings are bringing outstanding leaders to speak and share in discussion of: The UN; The Meaning of Peace; Disarmament; UMT. A committee set up this series with these basic objectives: "1) to help create a better informed group of citizens; and 2) to help people see more clearly that Christian principles and teachings have implications in current international affairs." The film "A Time for Greatness" was basis for first discussion and setting for the series.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SHARE YOUR INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION WITH OTHERS IN NEWSLETTER.

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR:

Technical Assistance: Senate Sub-committee on Technical Assistance Programs of Foreign Affairs Committee, Chmn. Mike Mansfield, is currently holding hearings on policy and long-range plans for TA.

House Appropriations Committee: Still needs to take action on \$8 million unpaid on current U.S. pledge to UN Technical Assistance Program and to recommend appropriations for next year for UN Technical Assistance Program.

National Reserve Plan: HR 3005 - extending Selective Service four years passed House.

HR 2967, Defense Department proposal for manpower, "National Reserve Plan," - hearings by House Armed Services Committee concluded March 4; next goes to House for vote. No hearings on either of above matters by Senate yet; probably begin soon.

Reciprocal Trade: Legislation to extend to June 30, 1958 President's powers in this program - PASSED House.

Hearings now being held by Senate Finance Committee. Sen. Harry F. Byrd, Chmn.

Forecast, N.Y. Times, 3/4/55: "Trade Bill faces battle in Senate: Questioning of three cabinet members suggests fight like that in House."

UN Review and Revision: The Special Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on UN Review and Revision which began over a year ago resumes hearings about mid-April; it previously held hearings through the Midwest; tentative schedule; April 18 - Atlanta, Ga.; 19 - Miami; then Pacific Coast and Far West, followed by New England, concluding in Washington.

MEMORIALS FOR NOBEL AWARD WORKER FOR GOD, ECUMENICITY, PEACE

Memorial Services for Dr. John R. Mott (1865-1955) were held during February in several cities in this country and abroad. During his earthly years of work he was the recipient of many honors including the Nobel Peace Prize citing particularly his leadership in ecumenicity. That award underlined the significant relationship of the growing ecumenical movement to world peace. Dr. Sockman, in the service in Christ Church, Methodist, New York, said of him that he was "a global worker;" that "he is memorialized in movements" - "every ecumenical meeting in five decades felt the influence of his leadership;" "he was a ceaseless worker for peace;" "he realized that religion offers the greatest channel for world peace."

RESOURCES: PAMPHLETS, BOOKS, ARTICLES, MOVIES

PAMPHLET: "Stop, Look, Listen" A Guide to Current Information on National and International Affairs, published by Church Peace Union. (9 pp. - all valuable). By all odds, one of the most useful pamphlets in this field, and indeed for any person or church or group at work in the whole area of Christian social action. A must for Christians and others who wish to know more about keeping well-informed. Contains specific evaluation of Magazines and Newsletters, Newspapers, Radio and TV Newsmen, Organizations, Books and Pamphlets. Gives criteria for such evaluation. Newsletter readers are urged to order copies in quantities for wide distribution from Church Peace Union, 170 East 64th Street, N.Y. 21, N.Y. Single copy - free; 100 - \$2.50; 1,000 - \$20.00.

BOOK: Foreign Affairs and Common Sense by Dorothy Fosdick. Harcourt, Brace & Co. Shows uncommon sense in approaching international affairs from some fresh angles: She sets forth in 12 chapters, 12 common sense principles and illustrates their application in specific current issues. Especially meaningful for the average layman; of value, also, to the expert. Keynote sentence: "Foreign policy is the business of every American."

ARTICLE: "Mr. Dulles and the Road to Peace," in Faith Today, Feb.-March issue, by Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, is a dynamic portrait of Mr. Dulles, detailing some of his background in his former responsibilities for the work of the churches in international affairs and some of the basic thinking which he brings to his present post of national and world responsibility as Secretary of State.

MOVIE: "ASSIGNMENT CHILDREN," Danny Kaye narrator, produced by Paramount Pictures in Asia, using some Asian technicians, is a 20-minute, colorful documentary on UNICEF. It is being run by commercial theaters as part of their billing, but requests in local communities might assure its showing, and widespread publicity would be valuable. The work of UNICEF is lagging for lack of finances; this should foster further interest and possible support as it brings to life some changes such agencies of UN have made in individuals and nations. N.Y. Times editorial, 3/7/55 says: "'Stars' were the children of six Asiatic countries; its crew was 'on location' with malaria-control teams and in maternal and child-health centers. Paramount is having it translated into many languages for world distribution, absorbing expenses, and sending all profits to UNICEF. To which we say, Well done!" Amen!

WATCH FOR: Evanston WCC Study Guide, scheduled for release through NCC in late April, being prepared by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. R.H. Edwin Espy, Associate Executive Secretary, Division of Christian Life and Work, NCC. The manuscript was drafted by the staff of the Department of Social Education and Action of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Consideration is being given to separate study guides for the six sub-themes, including one for Section IV - International Affairs, "Christians in the Struggle for World Community." Question: Will our readers be able to make use of such materials? When? In what quantities?

NEXT ISSUE: "A Message" with 10 study and Action Sheets on U.S. Foreign Policy has been prepared by the Council for Social Action through its International Relations Committee for members of the Congregational Christian Churches. The excellence of this statement and the usability of the Study and Action Sheets commend this program for wider knowledge and use, so we call it to our reader's attention now and plan to describe it in next issue of Newsletter.